

Message Text

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ACTION SCS-03

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 SCA-01 VO-03 L-03 H-01 DHA-02

/026 W

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R 081329Z DEC 76

FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO AMEMBASSY LONDON

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 1866

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: CASC, CSCE, UR

SUBJECT: SOVIET FIANCE OF AMERICAN CITIZEN

REF: MOSCOW 18971

1. MISS CHERRY'S FIANCE, IMANTS KALNINS, TELEPHONED EMBASSY DECEMBER 7 TO INFORM US THAT FURTHER COMPLICATIONS HAVE ARISEN IN THE CASE. CURRENT "CATCH" IS THAT KALNINS LIVES IN A RURAL AREA OUTSIDE RIGA WHICH, LIKE VIRTUALLY ALL AREAS IN THE SOVIET BALTIC REPUBLICS WITH EXCEPTION OF CAPITAL CITIES, IS CLOSED TO FOREIGNERS. FOR THIS REASON, KALNINS IS NOT ABLE TO INVITE MISS CHERRY AS A PRIVATE VISITOR TO HIS CURRENT PLACE OF RESIDENCE.

2. KALNINS TOLD CONSOFF THAT HE NOW INTENDS TO MOVE TO RIGA WHERE FOREIGNERS ARE PERMITTED TO TRAVEL AND RESIDE. IN ORDER TO INVITE MISS CHERRY FOR A PRIVATE VISIT, HOWEVER, KALNINS MUST FIRST BE REGISTERED AS A RESIDENT OF RIGA, WHICH MEANS THAT HE MUST FIRST LOCATE HOUSING AND OBTAIN EMPLOYMENT. KALNINS TOLD CONSOFF THAT AS RESULT OF NECESSITY TO MOVE, IT WOULD PROBABLY BE A YEAR BEFORE HE IS READY TO INVITE MISS CHERRY TO JOIN HIM IN RIGA.

3. ACCORDING TO KALNINS, HE HAS ALREADY NOTIFIED MISS CHERRY OF REASON FOR DELAY, BUT REQUESTED THAT EMBASSY INSURE THAT MESSAGE HAS BEEN RECEIVED. CONSOFF OFFERED KALNINS EVERY APPROPRIATE ASSISTANCE AND REQUESTED THAT HE KEEP EMBASSY INFORMED OF ANY

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DEVELOPMENTS IN CASE.

4. EMBASSY IS AWARE OF SEVERAL CASES IN WHICH MARRIAGES HAVE TAKEN PLACE IN CITIES OTHER THAN CITY IN WHICH PROSPECTIVE SOVIET SPOUSE WAS REGISTERED. IN THESE CASES, HOWEVER, THE AMERICAN FIANCÉE WAS ALREADY IN USSR ON A VISA GRANTED FOR SOME OTHER REASON -- SUCH AS BUSINESS OR AN EXCHANGE PROGRAM. IN MISS CHERRY'S CASE, THE FIRST STEP IS TO OBTAIN A VISA WHICH KALNINS UNFORTUNATELY CAN ARRANGE FOR ONLY AFTER HE IS REGISTERED IN AN OPEN AREA. HOWEVER, THE ONE YEAR WAITING PERIOD SUGGESTED BY KALNINS SEEMS TO US TO BE EXCESSIVE SINCE HE WOULD HAVE TO OBTAIN REGISTRATION TO REMAIN IN RIGA MORE THAN A FEW DAYS. CONSEQUENTLY WE ASSUME THAT KALNINS MAY HAVE OTHER REASONS UNRELATED TO REGISTRATION REQUIREMENT WHICH WILL REQUIRE ONE YEAR POSTPONEMENT.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 08 DEC 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: CunninFX
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976MOSCOW19210
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760454-0115
From: MOSCOW
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19761262/aaaacbqs.tel
Line Count: 76
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION SCS
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 MOSCOW 18971
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: CunninFX
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 05 MAY 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <05 MAY 2004 by ShawDG>; APPROVED <07 SEP 2004 by CunninFX>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SOVIET FIANCE OF AMERICAN CITIZEN
TAGS: CASC, UR, US, CSCE, (CHERRY, KELLY)
To: LONDON
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006